

## ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the congregation shall be known as First Baptist Church of Loris, hereafter known as Loris First Baptist Church, Loris, South Carolina.

## ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of the Loris First Baptist Church shall be to provide regular opportunities for public worship; to sustain the ordinances, doctrines, and ethics set forth in the New Testament for the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ; to nurture its members through a program of Christian education; to channel its offering to the support of the objectives of the Redeemer's Kingdom; and to preach and proclaim among all people the Gospel of the revelation of God through Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and as set forth in the Holy scriptures.

## ARTICLE III - ARTICLES OF FAITH

The Articles of Faith endorsed and approved by the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention are approved and recognized as the Articles of Faith in this church with the recommendation of the 1963 Kansas City Report of Committees on the *Baptist Faith and Message* accepted.

### I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

*Ex. 24:4; Deut. 4:1-2; 17:19; Josh. 8:34; Psalm 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isa. 34:16; 40:8; Jer. 15:16,36; Matt. 4:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33, 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Rom. 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.*

### II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

#### A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

*Gen. 1:1; 2:7; Ex. 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Lev. 22:2; Deut. 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chron. 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isa. 43:3,15; 64:8; Jer. 10:10; 17:13; Matt. 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Rom. 8:14-15; 1 Cor. 8:6; Gal. 4:6; Ephes. 4:6; Col. 1:15; 1 Tim. 1:17; Heb. 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.*

## B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself the demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, partaking of the nature of God and of man, and in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

*Gen. 18:1ff.; Psalm 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isa. 7:14,53; Matt. 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16; 27; 17:5, 27; 28:1-6, 19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5; 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Rom. 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8; 24-28; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Ephes. 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thess. 4:14-18; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Heb. 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15, 24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Rev. 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.*

## C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the assurance of God to bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

*Gen. 1:2; Judg. 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalm 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isa. 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matt. 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1, 18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Rom. 8:9-11; 14-16, 26-27; 1 Cor. 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thess. 5:19; 1 Tim. 3:16; 4:1; 2 Tim. 1:14; 3:16; Heb. 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Rev. 1:10; 22:17.*

## III. Mankind

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence; whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment

inclined toward sin, and as soon as they are capable of moral action become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

*Gen. 1:26-30; 2:5,7; 18-22; 3: 9:6; Psalm 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isa. 6:5; Jer. 17:5; Matt. 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Rom. 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Cor. 1:21-31; 15:19; 21-22; Eph. 2:1-22; Col. 1:21-22; 3:9-11.*

#### IV. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ alone.

1. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God.

2. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in Him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

3. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

*Gen. 3:15; Ex. 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matt. 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22 to 28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21, 36; 5:24; 10:9, 28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Rom. 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18; 29-39; 10:9-10, 13; 13:11-14; 1 Cor. 1:18, 30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Cor. 5:17-20; Gal. 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Phil. 2:12-13; Col. 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; 2 Tim. 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1 to 12:8, 14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6 to 2:11; Rev. 3:20; 21:1 to 22:5.*

#### V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is a glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the cause of Christ, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

*Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:5-8; 1 Sam. 8:4-7, 19-22; Isa. 5:1-7; Jer. 31:31ff.; Matt. 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45, 65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6, 12, 17-18; Acts 20:32; Rom. 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7; 26-36; 1 Cor. 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Eph. 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Col. 1:12-14; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; 2 Tim. 1:12; 2:10, 19; Heb. 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.*

## VI. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation members are equally responsible. Its Scriptural officers are pastors and deacons.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.

*Matt. 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts. 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephes. 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:1-15; 4:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Rev. 2-3; 21:2-3.*

## VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

*Matt. 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; Acts 20:7; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Col. 2:12.*

## VIII. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private.

*Ex. 20:8-11; Matt. 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3, 33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1, 19-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Col. 2:16; 3:16; Rev. 1:10.*

## IX. The Kingdom

The kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

*Gen. 1:1; Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 23:5-6; Matt. 3:2; 4:8-10, 23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Rom. 5:17; 8:19; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Col. 1:13; Heb. 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Rev. 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.*

## X. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of ever-lasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

*Isa. 2:4; 11:9; Matt. 16:27; 18:8-9; 9:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Cor. 5:10; Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thess. 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Tim. 6:14; 2 Tim. 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Rev. 1:18; 3:11; 20:1 to 22:13.*

## XI. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods in harmony with gospel of Christ.

*Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:5-6; Isa. 6:1-8; Matt. 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30,37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8, 16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Rom. 10:13-15; Ephes. 3:1-11; 1 Thess. 1:8; 2 Tim. 4:5; Heb. 2:1-3; 11:39 to 12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Rev. 22:17.*

## XII. Education

The cause of education in the kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian schools is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is

limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

*Deut. 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Neh. 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Prov. 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Eccl. 7:19; Matt. 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; Eph. 4:11-16; Phil. 4:8; Col. 2:3, 8-9; 1 Tim. 1:3-7; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:14-17; Heb. 5:12 to 6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.*

### XIII. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

*Gen. 14:20; Lev. 27:30-32; Deut. 8:18; Mal. 3:8-12; Matt. 6:1-4, 19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Rom. 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8-9; 12:15; Phil. 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.*

### XIV. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should co-operate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

*Ex. 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judg. 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Neh. 4; 8:1-5; Matt. 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Cor. 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Cor. 8-9; Gal. 1:6-10; Eph. 4:1-16; Phil. 1:15-18.*

### XV. The Christian and The Social Order

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in His own life and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus. The Christian should oppose, in the spirit of Christ, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice. He should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

*Ex. 20:3-17; Lev. 6:2-5; Deut. 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zech. 8:16; Matt. 5:13-16, 43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Rom. 12-14; 1 Cor. 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23 to 11:1; Gal. 3:26-28; Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:12-17; 1 Thess. 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.*

## XVI. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love.

*Isa. 2:4; Matt. 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Rom. 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Heb. 12:14; James 4:1-2.*

## XVII. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

*Gen. 1:27; 2:7; Matt. 6:6-7; 24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Rom. 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Gal. 5:1,13; Phil. 3:20; 1 Tim. 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.*

## XVIII. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime, according to biblical standards.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

*Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-25; 3:1-20; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Josh. 24:15; 1 Sam. 1:26-28; Psalm 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Prov. 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17;*

31:10-31; Eccl. 4:9-12; 9:9; Mal. 2:14-16; Matt. 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:22-33; 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; 1 Tim. 5:14; 2 Tim. 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Heb. 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

NOTE: The formation of the Articles of Faith reflects the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message and the values of Loris First Baptist Church.

## **ARTICLE IV - CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage or illegal drugs; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

## **ARTICLE V - CHARACTER**

### **Section 1. Polity**

The government of this body shall be vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Southern Baptist Churches. It is recognized that association between such churches will influence the missionary, educational, and benevolent interest of each other. The church does, therefore, declare its intention, as far as conscience will allow, to work in mutual cooperation with other Southern Baptist groups.

### **Section 2. Doctrine**

This Church receives the scriptures as its authority in matters of faith and practice. This understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the belief of Southern Baptist Churches as indicated in the *Articles of Faith* and recognized by this church.

## **ARTICLE VI - DISPOSITION OF ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION**

No part of the net earnings of said corporation shall inure to the benefit of any private member or individual. In the event of dissolution, the assets of the corporation shall be allocated to the agencies and/or institutions of the South Carolina Baptist Convention as designated by the Church membership. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of those Church members present and voting will be required to determine the disposition of the assets.

No substantial part of the activity of the corporation shall be carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in, any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

## **ARTICLE VII - MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. General**

This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist Church under the lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this Church.

The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

Upon presentation of candidate for membership, candidate will be taken under the watchcare of the Church until completion of new member orientation class, and/or verification and transfer of membership from a church of like faith, and/or baptism.

### **Section 2. Candidacy**

Any person may offer himself as a candidate for membership in this Church. All such candidates shall be presented to the Church at any regular Church service for membership in any of the following ways:

- A. By profession of faith and for baptism by immersion according to the policies of this church.
- B. By transfer of membership from a church of like faith and order; where faith is defined by the Articles of Faith of Loris First Baptist Church and order is defined by the polity of Loris First Baptist Church.
- C. By restoration upon a statement of prior profession of faith and baptism in a church of like faith and order when no letter is obtainable; where faith is defined by the Articles of Faith of Loris First Baptist Church and order is defined by the polity of Loris First Baptist Church. Should there be any dissent as to any candidate, such dissent shall be referred to the Pastor and Deacons, for investigation and the making of a recommendation to the church within 30 days. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of those church members present and voting shall be required to elect such candidates to membership.

### **Section 3. New Member Orientation**

New members of the church would attend classes within six months conducted by the Pastor whereby such new members may be better informed and trained concerning the privileges and responsibilities of church membership.

### **Section 4. Rights of Members**

- A. Every member of the Church, age 12 or promoted to the sixth grade, is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted by the church in conference provided the member is present, and shares equally in the rights and responsibilities of the Church.
- B. Every member of the Church is eligible for consideration by the membership as candidates for elective offices in the church, provided the member meets applicable requirements as stated in the Constitution and By-Laws.
- C. Every member of the Church is eligible to participate in the ordinances of the Church as administered by the Church.

Section 5. Termination of Membership.

A person will have his or her membership terminated upon any of the following conditions:

- A. Death of the member.
- B. Transfer to another Baptist church.;
- C. Exclusion by action of this Church..
- D. Removal upon request or proof of membership in a church of another denomination.

Section 6. Discipline

It shall be the practice of this Church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The Pastor, other members of the church staff, and Deacons are available for counsel and guidance. The attitude of members toward one another shall be guided by a concern for redemption rather than punishment. Should some serious condition exist which would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare of the Church, the Pastor and the Deacons will take every reasonable measure to resolve the problem in accord with Matthew 18. If it becomes necessary for the church to take action to exclude a member, a 2/3 vote of the members present is required and the church may proceed to declare the person to be no longer in the membership of the Church. All such proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance. The Church may restore to membership any person previously excluded, upon request of the excluded person, and by vote of the Church upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance and reformation.

**ARTICLE VIII. VOTING POLICY**

Every member of the Church, age 12 or promoted to the sixth grade, is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted by the church in conference provided the member is present.

All non-urgent business matters are encouraged to be conducted at the Sunday Evening Service. Annual budget matters meeting criteria listed in Section 1 must be approved during the Morning Worship Service.

Section 1. Votes requiring paper ballot shall consist of the following:

- A. Any action that indebts the Church in the form of a lien or mortgage.
- B. Any purchase of more than \$25,000.
- C. Any acquisition, disposition or transfer of real estate.
- D. The call of ministers or ministerial staff.
- E. Other actions deemed necessary by responsible committee or upon Church action.

Section 2.

- A. Written ballot must have the required number of names or it will not be counted.

- B. Any spoiled ballot or ballot in question shall be unanimous decision of Tally Committee.
- C. All Tally Committee members must sign ballot envelope confirming official results.
- D. Any vote taken by written ballot will be kept in a sealed envelope for 60 days in the event of an appeal. After 60 days, the vote will stand and ballots destroyed.
- E. Should an appeal be deemed appropriate, the moderator must be contacted, in writing, within 15 days after the date of the vote.

## **ARTICLE IX. INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE**

Should questions arise concerning the duties or responsibilities defined within the Constitution and By-Laws, a written request should be directed to the Chairman of the Deacons. An Interpretation Committee, consisting of the Chairman of the Deacons, Moderator or Assistant Moderator, and Chairperson of the most recent Constitution and By-Laws Revision Committee, shall meet and a final and absolute decision will be rendered within 30 days of notification. A written decision will be given to the Church Clerk to be included with the Constitution and By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE X - CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

All who serve as officers of the church and those who serve on church committees shall be members of this church.

### **A. PASTOR**

#### Section 1. Selection

A Pastor shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. A special Pastor Search Committee composed of five (5) members, three (3) men and two (2) women, shall be nominated by the Deacons and elected by the church to seek out a suitable Pastor and their recommendation shall constitute a nomination. Committee members must be an active and resident member of this Church in good standing at least two (2) years prior to election.

The Pastor Search Committee shall nominate as Pastor a minister of the Gospel whose Christian character and qualifications fit him for the office. He shall be a person who is in sympathy with and will help promote the fundamental principles of the program as set forth by Loris First Baptist Church. His election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose of which at least one (1) week's notice shall have been given. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the Church only one name at a time, after having the unanimous approval of the Deacons. Election shall be by ballot, an affirmative vote of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of those present being necessary for an election. The Pastor, thus elected, shall serve until the relationship is terminated by his request or the Church's request.

#### Section 2. Duties

See current Job Description Maintained by Personnel Committee.

#### Section 3. Relinquishing the Office

- A. The Pastor may relinquish the office as Pastor by giving at least two (2) weeks' notice to the church at the time of resignation.
- B. The Church may declare the office of Pastor to be vacant. Such action shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's public notice has been given. The meeting may be called upon the recommendation of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the

active Deacon body. The vote to declare the office vacant shall be by secret ballot, an affirmative vote of the majority of members present being necessary to declare the office vacant.

- C. Except in instances of gross misconduct by the Pastor so excluded from office, the Church will compensate the Pastor with not less than one twelfth (1/12) of his total annual compensation. The termination shall be immediate and the compensation shall be rendered within thirty (30) days.

#### Section 4. Revivals

For the first six months, one week away will be allowed for leading a revival, teaching a study course or seminar, etc. Thereafter, three weeks will be allowed annually for leading a revival, teaching a study course, etc., not more than two which would require his being away from home. He will notify the Chairman of the Deacons and Chairman of the Personnel Committee before any of these meetings are scheduled.

### **B. ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR MUSIC AND EDUCATION**

#### Section 1. Selection

An Associate Pastor for Music and Education shall be chosen and called by the church when a vacancy occurs. A special committee composed of five (5) members, three (3) women and two (2) men, nominated by the Deacons and elected by the church to seek out a suitable person for this position. Committee members must be an active and resident member of this church in good standing at least two (2) years prior to election. The candidate shall be a person who is in sympathy with and will help promote the fundamental principles of the program as set forth by Loris First Baptist Church.

This special committee shall, after having the unanimous approval of the Pastor and the Deacons, present this person to the Church for consideration and affirmation vote of at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of those present being necessary for a call.

#### Section 2. Duties

See current Job Description maintained by Personnel Committee.

#### Section 3. Relinquishing the Office

- A. The Associate Pastor for Music and Education may relinquish his office by giving at least two weeks notice to the church at the time of resignation.
- B. The Church may declare the office of Associate Pastor for Music and Education vacant. Such action will take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's public notice has been given. The meeting may be called upon the recommendation of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Deacons. The vote to declare the office vacant shall be by secret ballot, an affirmative vote of the majority of members present being necessary to declare the office vacant.
- C. Except in instances of gross misconduct by the Associate Pastor for Music and Education so excluded from office, the Church will compensate the Associate pastor for Music and Education with not less than one-twelfth (1/12) of his total annual compensation. The termination shall be immediate and the compensation shall be rendered within than thirty (30) days.

#### Section 4. Revivals

For the first six months, one week away will be allowed for leading a revival, teaching a study course or seminar, etc. Thereafter, three weeks will be allowed annually for leading a revival, teaching a study course, etc., not more than two which would require his being

away from home. He will notify the Chairman of the Deacons and Chairman of the Personnel Committee before any of these meetings are scheduled.

### **C. MINISTER OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN**

#### Section 1. Selection

A Minister of Youth and Children shall be chosen and called by the church when a vacancy occurs. A special committee composed of five (5) members, three (3) women and two (2) men, nominated by the Deacons and elected by the church to seek out a suitable person for this position. Committee members must be an active and resident member of this church in good standing at least two (2) years prior to election. The candidate shall be a person who is in sympathy with and will help promote the fundamental principles of the program as set forth by Loris First Baptist Church.

This special committee shall, after having the unanimous approval of the Pastor and the Deacons, present this person to the Church for consideration and affirmation vote of at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of those present being necessary for a call.

#### Section 2. Duties

See current Job Description maintained by Personnel Committee.

#### Section 3. Relinquishing the Office

- A. The Minister of Youth and Children may relinquish his office by giving at least two weeks notice to the church at the time of resignation.
- B. The church may declare the office of Minister of Youth and Children vacant. Such action will take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's public notice has been given. The meeting may be called upon the recommendation of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Deacons. The vote to declare the office vacant shall be by secret ballot, an affirmative vote of the majority of members present being necessary to declare the office vacant.
- C. Except in instances of gross misconduct by the Minister of Youth and Children so excluded from office, the Church will compensate the Minister of Youth and Children with not less than one-twelfth ( $\frac{1}{12}$ ) of his total annual compensation. The termination shall be immediate and the compensation shall be rendered within thirty (30) days.

#### Section 3. Revivals

For the first six months, one week away will be allowed for leading a revival, teaching a study course or seminar, etc. Thereafter, three weeks will be allowed annually for leading a revival, teaching a study course, etc., not more than two which would require his being away from home. He will notify the Chairman of the Deacons and Chairman of the Personnel Committee before any of these meetings are scheduled.

### **D. NON-MINISTERIAL STAFF**

Non-ministerial Staff members shall be employed as the Church determines the need for their services. The Personnel Committee shall have the authority to employ and to terminate services of non-ministerial staff members:

- A. The Church Secretary -- See current Job Description maintained by Personnel Committee.
- B. The Church Custodian -- See current Job Description maintained by Personnel Committee.

- C. The Church Maid – See current Job Description maintained by Personnel Committee.
- D. Other positions as needed – Personnel Committee shall maintain a list of job duties and expectations.

**E. THE DEACONS**

The number of Deacons serving this church shall be twelve (12) persons who are members in good standing and duly elected by the church to serve a three-year term. They shall be divided into three (3) equal groups and so arranged that one group's term expires each year. At the expiration of one full term, no one in the retiring group shall be eligible for re-election until the lapse of two (2) years.

**Section 1. Eligibility**

For one to become eligible to be elected Deacon, they must meet the following requirements:

- A. They must be at least eighteen (18) years of age prior to election.
- B. They must be an active and resident member of this church in good standing at least two (2) years prior to election.
- C. No parent or offspring, or their spouse, or no two persons from the same immediate family can serve as Deacon concurrently.

**Section 2. Election**

The election of Deacons shall be as follows:

- A. During the first week of June a list of all eligible persons shall be mailed to the church membership.
- B. Those preferring not to serve as Deacon will contact the church office by letter, telephone or in person asking their name be deleted from the list.
- C. After two (2) weeks the revised list of all persons willing to serve as Deacon will be mailed to the church membership.
- D. On the fourth Sunday in July, each church member present will vote, by paper ballot, for four (4) persons from the revised list. All ballots must have four (4) different names or they will not be counted.
- E. A Tally Committee consisting of the four (4) outgoing Deacons will distribute and count all ballots. The four (4) persons receiving the most votes will be contacted by the Tally Committee. These persons are to verify their willingness to serve and commit themselves to the entire Church program. Should any of these decline the nomination, the next person with the most votes will be asked to serve. In the event of a tie, a run-off election will be held.
- F. Should persons addressed in Section 1C be elected in the same election, the one receiving the most votes will be asked to serve first and the second declared ineligible.

**Section 3. Vacancies**

When a vacancy occurs among the Deacons, which may create an unexpired term of office, it may be filled by a special election or at regular election time. If the vacancy is filled at regular election time the persons receiving the highest number of votes after the regular terms of office are filled will be declared elected for the unexpired term. Following this procedure, all unexpired terms will be filled if there are more than one.

**Section 4. Installation**

All newly elected Deacons will be installed the last Sunday in August, and immediately following installation will meet to elect their officers. Ordination services will be held for those who have not been ordained. They will assume office the first day of September.

#### Section 5. Deacons from Other Churches

There is no obligation to constitute as Deacon a person who comes to the church from another church where the position of Deacon has been held.

#### Section 6. Duties

The Deacons shall function and serve in all the ways mentioned in the New Testament. They shall assist the Pastor in the administration of the Lord's Supper. The Deacons shall study and constantly review the total spiritual and benevolent program of the church and may recommend to the church such policies and projects as they think best for the church. They shall also be responsible for church affairs not specifically spelled out as duties of other committees and church officers. They shall do whatever is necessary to lead the church to a close spiritual walk with the Lord.

#### Section 7. Family Ministry

Deacons will participate in Deacon Family Ministry.

### **F. THE TRUSTEES**

#### Section 1. Selection

The Trustees shall be three (3) active members of the church divided in three (3) groups so arranged that one member's tenure expires each year. One Trustee shall be elected each year. Nominations for this office shall be made each year by the Church Nominating Committee. The person serving his third year will serve as Chairman. When a Trustee has served a full term, he shall not be eligible for nomination until two (2) years has lapsed.

#### Section 2. Duties

- A. The Trustees shall hold in trust all property and effects of the Church; see that all titles are legal; report to the Church on the title of all property which the Church offers to purchase. They shall have no power to buy, sell or mortgage, lease, or transfer any property of the Church without a specific vote of the Church authorizing such action, neither shall they have any control over the use of the church property except by a vote of the church.
- B. The Trustees shall make a report to the church of any action taken by the group and turn the record of such action over to the Church Clerk.
- C. The Trustees shall have general oversight over all of the church property. It shall be the responsibility of the Trustees to keep the Church insured in keeping with good, sound business principles. Insurance coverages shall include both facility and staff liabilities.

### **G. THE TREASURER AND ASSISTANT TREASURER**

#### Section 1. Selection

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall be nominated annually by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church.

#### Section 2. Duties

- A. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive, preserve, and pay out upon receipt of vouchers approved and signed by authorized personnel; all money or things of value paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all

receipts and disbursements. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to render to the church at regular intervals an itemized report of the receipts and disbursements. The Treasurer's report and records shall be audited annually. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall be bonded, the church paying for the bond.

- B. The Assistant Treasurer shall co-sign all checks and assist the Treasurer in his duties and may assume responsibilities as outlined for the treasurer.
- C. It will be the duty of either the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer to attend all Budget and Finance Committee monthly meetings for input and advice from the committee on the financial matters of the church.
- D. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall approve a third signature to be on file to co-sign checks.

#### **H. THE CLERK AND ASSISTANT CLERK**

The church shall annually elect a Clerk as its clerical officer. The Clerk shall be responsible for keeping a suitable record of all official actions of the church, except as otherwise herein provided. The Clerk shall keep an official record of any amendments or clarifications made to the Constitution and By-Laws. There shall be an Assistant Clerk to assume whatever responsibilities necessary on suggestion of the Clerk. One of these two shall be responsible for filing out information cards when a person applies for membership in the church.

#### **I. MODERATOR**

A Moderator shall be appointed to preside at all business sessions and an Assistant Moderator, who will serve as Parliamentarian, shall be appointed to preside in the absence of the Moderator in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised*, and current Constitution and By-Laws of Loris First Baptist Church. The nomination will be by the Deacon officers with majority vote of the Deacons. The appointment will be for a term of one year but may serve consecutive terms.

### **ARTICLE XI - ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS**

#### **Section 1. Adoption**

The church Constitution or By-laws shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when 2/3 of the members present and voting at the business meeting at which the vote is taken shall vote in favor of same.

#### **Section 2. Amendments**

The church Constitution or By-laws may be amended at any regular business meeting of the church provided notice of each amendment shall have been presented in writing and discussed at a previous business meeting and copies notice of the proposed amendment or amendments shall have been published in the church newsletter and/or posted on the church website prior to such meeting. Any member wishing to have a hardcopy of these document changes may request a copy through the church office. A 2/3 vote of the members present and voting at such business meeting will be required to make any amendment to this Constitution or By-Laws. The Church Clerk will modify official document once an amendment is approved and updated copies can be obtained from Church office.

#### **Section 3. Review**

This Constitution and By-Laws will be reviewed in its entirety at five (5) year intervals by a committee of not less than five persons nominated by the Deacons and elected by the church. All alterations, modifications or changes deemed necessary will be presented to the church following the procedure as stated in Section 2 of this Article.

